

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 23, 25-28 and 30 are allowable and rejected claims 31 and 32. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter. By way of the present Response, Applicants have canceled claims 31 and 32 without prejudice to file in a continuing application. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 23, 25-28, and 30 will be pending in the present patent application and, as indicated by the Examiner, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the present application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hawley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,274). Office Action, page 2.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 31 without prejudice to file in a continuing application and, thus, the rejection is moot.

The Examiner also rejected independent claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McDaniel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,107,230). Office Action, page 3. Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, as noted above, Applicants have canceled claim 31 and, thus, the rejection is moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected independent claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Hawley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,667,274). Office Action, page 3.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, Applicants have canceled claim 32 without prejudice to file in a continuing application and, thus, the rejection is moot.

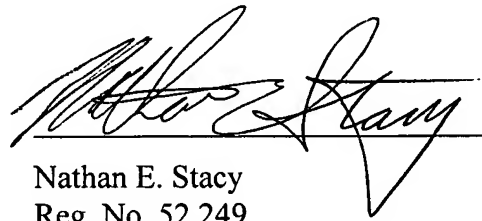
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Payment of Fees

Applicants believe that no fees are due at this time. However, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request thereof. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1315; Order No. CPCM:0047/FLE/FAR/STA (210462US00).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan E. Stacy', written over a horizontal line.

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